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Volume XXV......No. 360

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—Santa Claus Festival— Funch and Judy—Aunt Sally—Dissolving Views, &c. Afternoon and Evening.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street. RIP VAN WINKLE-ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS.

BOWRRY THEATRE, BOWERY.—SPALDING & ROGER'S EQUESTRIAN TROUPE—MONSTER OF ST. MICHAEL WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Fast Man of the

LAURA KRENE'S THEATRE, No. 624 Broadway. NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery -- HERNE THE HUN

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway. - Day and Evening-The Sea of ICE-Astec Children - Living Cun-

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Br

HOOLEY & CAMPBELL'S MINSTEELS, Niblo's Saloon, Broadway.—Ethiopean Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c.—Happy New Year.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 663 Broadway. -So MELODEON, No. 539 Broadway.-Sonus, Dances, Bun

HOPE CHAPEL.-REV. H. N. HUDSON'S LECTURE AND

New York, Thursday, December 27, 1860.

The South Carolina Convention had several important subjects before it yesterday. One calls for information relative to the condition of the forts in Charleston harbor, another makes citizens of South Carolina all citizens of the United States within her limits on the 20th inst., the date of her secession, while a third provides for a convention of slaveholding States at Montgomery, Alabama, for the purpose of forming a Southern confederacy, under the constitution of the United States. The Convention, in secret session, adopted an ordinance continuing the present federal revenue officers in their places, and also continuing the United States revenue and navigation laws in force, subject to certain regula tions. This important ordinance is publish complete in our report of the proceedings.

With reference to the recent robbery in the Interior Department, but little of general interest transpired yesterday. Bailey, the defaulting clerk, was yesterday surrendered by his bondsmen, and committed to prison. It is said that other and equally serious charges have come to light against the accused. It is expected that Russell will be released on bail to-day. In this city yester-day Judge Smalley, of the Circuit Court, granted an injunction restraining the Bank of the Republic from disposing of any of the stolen bonds. There is a point in connection with the Tennessee bonds stolen from the Interior Department that should be made clear. There were three issues of bonds from that State, lettered A. B and C, and numbered from one up to the highest number issued; consequently there are triplicate numbers. The list published by the Interior Department mentions the numbers, but not the letters. Hence considerable confusion arises in the transactions in Wall street and elsewhere.

It is announced on the best authority that, after a careful investigation, it has been ascertained that the rumors relative to apprehended deficits in the Treasury Department are utterly groundless. The South Carolina Commissioners reached Washington yesterday. What their mission will amount to remains to be seen.

By the arrival of the Anglo-Saxon at Portland and the Canada at Halifax, we have European advices to the 16th inst., and later accounts from

The news from China is of the highest import ance. A brief despatch from Pekin, received in London via St. Petersburg, announces the cessation of hostilities, and an exchange of ratifications of peace on the 5th of November. The Allies were evacuating the capital, and the Emperor would shortly return to it.

The Canada brings nearly a million in gold. There had been no change worthy of note in financial or commercial affairs. There was a rumor current at Queenstown when

the Canada sailed that Garibaldi had been assassinated, but it was generally discredited. The American ship Georgiana, from New Or-

crew were saved. The flow of specie from Europe to the United States continues without abatement. The annexed table shows the sums that have arrived since the

15th inst .:ew York, -

ST.894.700 By the arrival of the Tennessee at New Orleans we have news from Mexico to the 22d inst. Gen. Miramon had surprised and defeated the liberals at Torbuca, capturing three generals, among them Degollado, and twelve hundred men.

The Commissioners of Emigration, at their week ly meeting held yesterday, passed a resolution that the subject of drafting a bill to be presented to the Legislature for the sale of the late Marine Hospital grounds and the location of a new Quarantine and the erection of a new Marine Hospital, be referred to the President and counsel to the Board. This was all the business of any public interest that was transacted. The number of emigrants arrived during the past week was 1,339, which makes the number landed here since the 31st of December, 1859, 103,455. The number landed during the same period for 1859 was 79,070. The comlance to the credit of the Board now ts to \$7,448 76.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors yes terday, a communication was received from the new City Chamberlain, asking that the amount of his stion was received from the new bonds may be fixed. A resolution to increase the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts, and the Surrogate, \$1,000 each, was laid over. The special committee appointed to examine respecting the public funds in the custody of the late Chamberlain, Mr. Platt, were di charged from the further consideration of the subject. After the transaction of some business of no general flerest, the Board adjourned till

Priday next.

The inquest into the O'Nell homicide at William Commence. amsburg, on Christmas day, was commenced esterday before Coroner Murphy, when it ap-sered that the accused, Louis Harnets, after abbling the boy Kennedy, with whom he had a

quarrel, was pursued by a crowd, foremost of revolution would be more likely to be successwhom was the deceased, who followed him into his own room, where the deadly assault was committed by the prisoner. The inquest stands adjourned till to-day.

The skating in the Park yesterday was among the things that did not exist, in consequence of the ever, assembled on the ponds in the vicinity, which resort will soon cease, if the ice be carted away as it was yesterday by the ice companies, leaving dangerous holes for skaters to tumble into.

In another column will be found a compender report of the proceedings of the Board of Educaon last evening. They were somewhat interest

The cotton market vesterday was firmer, with sales of 3,000 bales, closing on the basis of 11c. a 11%c. per lb for middling uplands. The market was influenced as much from the falling off in the receipts at the South as from the character of the foreign news. The mail intelligence gives the decline at the ports, compared with those for the same period last year, of 426,000 bales while by telegraph the falling off is estimated at about 500,000 bales. Flour opened dull, but under the influence of the foreign news the market became firm, and closed at a slight advance for some descriptions. Wheat was heavy in the forenoon, but it was in better request in the after nocn, with more show of firmness on the part of holders The same remark is applicable to corn, which was firm at the close and more active. Pork was firm for new with sales of new mess at \$16; old do. at \$15 50; new steady. Freights were easier, with engagements to Liver pool at rates in favor of shippers, especially of grain.

The Great Question of the Day-Is Seces-

we published yesterday two remarkable documents of a revolutionary character-one, the Declaration of Independence of South Carolina, done in Convention, December 24. 1860;" and the other, "the address of the peo ple of South Carolina, assembled in Conven tion, to the people of the slaveholding States of the United States." They are both eloquently written electioneering papers, well calculated to precipitate the revolutionary movement now going forward at the South. They describe, in vivid colors, the anti-slavery sentiment existing at the North, and the acts of hostility agains the South perpetrated by various Northern States. But while we willingly give them this praise, we must impugn their historical accu racy in some very important points, and dissent from the conclusions arrived at as illogical and

It is not true that the United States constitute mere temporary league, which can be lawfully and constitutionally broken up at any time by one or more States wh may feel aggrieved from the action of other States or the legislation of the representatives of the whole in Congress assembled. The United States are a government, and the first principle of all govern ments-as it is the first law of nature in individuals-is self-preservation. No government can be peacefully broken up-none without revolution. The first form of federation for the whole States, adopted in 1781-while the result of the Revolutionary war was still pending-is described by the instrument itself as "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union," and the style of the confederacy was "The United States of America." The preamble to the con stitution, the form of government under which we now live, was, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union," &c., "do ordain and establish this con stitution for the United States of America. There is no article or section which provides for the dissolution of this Union, none that looks to such an event as possible, nothing in the constitution that warrants the secession of a State under any circumstances. For existing evils arising out of any unequal working of the constitution, the instrument itself provides the remedy either by appealing against State or federal injustice to the Supreme Court, or by giving the people the rtunity of amending the cor this was done expressly to prevent physical force revolution and bloodshed-no other kind of revolution being recognized under the constitution than revolution through the opera tion of the ballot box. The people of the thirteen States ratified this constitution, and for South Carolina, which was one of them. there is no saving clause by which she can resume the complete independent sovereignty with which she parted, nor has she any more right to set at defiance the laws of the Union than an individual has to disobey the laws of a State to which he has surrendered a share of his natural liberty in order to preserve the rest. The great difficulty under the old conederation was that the laws of Congress did not operate upon individuals, but upor States, and there was no mode of coercing States provided for. By the constitution the general government operates not upon States, as such, but upon individuals—upon every individual in every State. Hence Congrecannot declare war against a State, for that would be the United States declaring war against themselves, but Congress and the President can enforce the federal laws against any number of individuals in any State, or any number of States, and their declaring them selves outside of the federal government doe not make them so. The bond of Union canno be legally cancelled by one of the partie thereto. The act of cancelling it is an act of revolution. The claim of South Carolina. therefore, that in the step she has taken she ha acted according to law and the nature of the compact, for weal or wo, into which she delibe rately entered, is contrary to the well known facts of American history. If she based her act on the right of revolution, then we could understand the logic of her argument, though not the prudence of her course. For the right of revolution is the right of the strongest, and is only sanctified by success. The lessons of history, from the beginning of the world, preach the uniform doctrine of Var victis-" woe to the vanquished." South Carolina cannot, therefore, escape from the responsibility of her act under the shield of law. It will be solely a question of policy with the federal govern ment whether it will enforce its laws in that and other seceding States. It will have the

There is not and cannot be any right of secesion, except as a right of revolution. The argument of South Carolina is equally weak in the reason she assigns for secession Her act is founded not so much upon what the Northern States, or the United States in Congress, have done, as upon her apprehension of what they may do hereafter. That certainly cannot be a justification for her attempt to break up the government. When abolition of slavery in the Southern States is decreed by Congress and the President, and sanctioned by the Supreme Court of the United States, it will then be time enough for revolution, and then

bted right, if it thinks fit to exercise it.

ful. Better far for South Carolina to bear all the ills she can now justly complain of at the hands of this government than fly to others she knows not of. Her chief complaint is the nullification, by

the Northern Personal Liberty bills, of a part of the constitution which provides for the restoration of fugitive slaves. Now it does not appear that she has lost any slaves from this cause; but if she had it would be a very poor reason for breaking up any government because ome of its laws are transgressed or lefied. There might be good cause for using force against force in such a case, and carrying out "the supreme law of the land," which the constitution is, but no cause for dissolving the government. If the President should hold that any such laws are constitutional, and refuse to enforce the rights of the Southern States, then their constitutionality can be easily tested by the aggrieved party appealing to the Supreme Court; and if the decision should be in his favor, the Personal Liberty bills will be rendered null and void, and the President will be compelled to carry out the laws of Congress, and vindicate the rights of the complainant. The principal article of the republican creed is that slavery shall not enter the Territories in future. But the Supreme Court of the United States has already decided in favor of the rights of the Southern States as regards the Territories, and it is not in the power of Congress or the President to interfere with them unless by changing the constitution.

South Carolina refers to the Lemmon case

n which the State of Virginia is plaintiff and New York defendant, as having been decided against the right of a slaveholder to visit a free State with his slaves and yet retain them. This is a mistake. The case is not finally disposed of. The Court of Appeals in this State has decided against Virginia, but not so the Supreme Court, to which the case has been brought by appeal. From some of the grounds on which the decision in the Dred Scott case was based, there can be little doubt that the decision of the New York courts will be reversed, and the rights of the slaveholder mainained. A slaveholder cannot settle here and retain his slaves; but by the common law, which existed in the time of the colonies and during the confederation, and which now exists, so far as it has not been repealed by the constitution, slaveholders have a perfect right to visit free States with their slaves without losing them, no matter what laws such States may enact to the contrary. Slaves are recognized as property in the constitution, and by the fifth amendment it is provided that "no person shall be deprived of his property without due process of law;" and in the section about the rendition of fugitive slaves, it is declared that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States." So that citizen of South Carolina, being a citizen of the United States, has as much right to protection of his property in slaves when visiting New York as a citizen of New York has to protection of his property in horses when visiting South Carolina.

But the Sovereignty Convention of the Palnetto State assumes that because the antislavery party at the North are hostile to its institutions, and have succeeded in electing the President on that issue, therefore the whole North is hostile, and South Carolina ought to go out of the Union. Now, it is quite true that the republican party are hostile to slavery; but it is equally true that the South has nearly an equal number of friends at the North, who, with the votes of the Southern States, can always keep abolition in check. Mr. Lincoln was not elected by a majority of the people, but by a small minority, and if the election direct vote of the people, he could not be elected. Instead of Southern States, there fore, going out of the Union for this, they ought to exert themselves to prevent its recurrence by amending the constitution, so as that the President could only be elected by a majority of the people. Mr. Lincoln's election was accidental and technical, and is chiefly owing to the divisions and corruptions of the democratic party, which, under the leadership of Pierce, Douglas and Cushing, and with the ssistance of Jefferson Davis and other Southern leaders, abolished the Missouri Compromise in 1854, and gave birth to the republican party, and which, with the assistance of the eaters of South Carolina and other Southern States, split into pieces at Charleston and Baltimore in 1860, and gave the victory to Lincoln and the republicans. It is not just, therefore, to attribute the present condition of things altogether to North, nor even a share of it to the whole Northern people. For twenty-five years in this journal we have defended the rights of the South; others at the North have done the same thing; and had the South been true to itself, there were always enough of good men and true at the North to protect Southern rights. At this hour, if the seceding States will only return to reason, they can find more allies than they need in the Northern population to demolish republicanism root and branch, and in the words of the preamble to the constitu tion, "establish justice" upon such a basis as that it cannot be shaken for all time to come.

Ex-GOVERNOR WISE GOING TO WAR.-Our old friend, ex-Governor Wise, of Virginia, although out of office, is determined that the world shall not forget that he still lives Through the columns of his special organ at Richmond the hero of Accomac breathes fire and sword, and, like the war horse, scents the battle afar off. The Wise plan of preventing the republicans from entering into the enjoyment of the federal spoils is to seize upon the capital on the 4th of March next, and thus prevent the inauguration of "Honest Old Abe Lincoln." Wise, who is well known as a cool. prudent, wary individual, the beau ideal of a military leader, is to command the forces to be raised for this purpose. This information we gather from the ex-Governor's organ, and we see one very important obstacle in the Governor's way. He, of course, is a patriot, and is actuated by the purest motives; but he is also a politician, and must be aware that his follow ers expect some solid reward for their services. Under ordinary circumstances the federal Treasury would offer a rich placer; but as natters now stand it is by no means improbable that between the knavish public officers, thieving clerks. Wall street brokers and contractors, the Treasury will be entirely empty long before old Abe is sworn in, and that the new ministers will not find so much ready

money in the public chest as will buy a stick of sealing wax. Under these circumstances the Wise expedition would not pay. Still the ex-Governor of Virginia is a wise man, and one who commands a certain amount of confidence among the governing classes. If he will issue a nanifesto calling for volunteers, and giving them the assurance that after they have taken Washington the spoils will pay for the risk and expense of the job, we have no doubt that he will find a good number of adherents among those of the fashionable New York rowdies who are temporarily outside of the State prison.

The Corruptions and Disasters of the Democracy-And What of the Republi-

In the dying agonies of the democracy, as the party in power at Washington, the loathsome corruptions which have brought about its inglorious dissolution are beginning to be revealed to the public eye. The country stands aghast at the sickening spectacle. The public attention is suddenly drawn from the thickening clouds of disunion and civil war to the details of gigantic frauds among our government officials. But while the discoveries made in this direction are of magnificent dimensions, the embezzlements suspected, but not yet fully disclosed, are positively sublime. A million or two of dollars in bonds abstracted from the iron safe of the Interior Department, and squandered by the robbers and jobbers concerned, is a respectable item on the side of losses and leakages; and yet it is but an item in the general schedule of federal delinquencies, if half that we hear concerning them shall prove to be true. Detectives, we are told, are on the track of two or three millions unaccounted for in the Treasury Department; and it is feared that every department o the executive government at Washington will. if probed to the bottom, disclose an amount of thieving spoliations that will make even John Covode open his eyes with amazement. From what we have seen, however, of the black catalogue, we dare say that an industrious detective-like Covode-could easily foot up against the immaculate democracy a bill of a hundred millions of losses and leakages to the federal Treasury since the inaguration of poor Pierce.

But these enormous democratic spoliations are nothing new under the sun. We have had wo editions of the democratic national organiation since 1828. The first edition was the Jacksonian democratic party, which, coming into power in 1828, on "the glorious victory of New Orleans," was pulverized in the political revolution of 1840. The prostration of "Nick Biddle's monster"—the United States Bank and the substitution of the "pet bank" system brought about the splendid shinplaster inflation of 1834-35, which ended in the terrific explosion and destruction of the whole fabric in 1837. In this epoch of inflation, speculation and extravagance, the general contagion seized upon thousands of the federal office holders and contractors and jobbers of all sorts. Thus it was that, in the campaign of 1840, the discovered defalcations, embezzlements and spoliations of collectors, land office registers United States marshals, attorneys, Indian agents and Florida war contractors, covering many millions of dollars, literally swept this old Jacksonian Van Buren democratic party

from the face of the earth. Next followed a sort of interregaum e twelve years at Washington, under President Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor and Fillmore, during which the democratic party was in a transition state from the almighty dollar to the almighty nigger-from Jackson's financial, anti-national bank agitation to the agitation of this more permanent and formidable question of Southern slavery. But in this transition epoch to the democracy, there were some operations upon the Treasury which, in their n the way of fraud that has ever occurred inder any government under the sun. These operations were such as the Gardner claim of half a million, the Miers claim and the Galphin claim, all of which were engineered through and paid; on the other hand, when Mr. Fillnore went out of office, he left the country quiet upon the slavery question, under the reat healing compromise measures of 1850.

Upon the faith of these compromises poor Pierce was elected President in 1852, almost by acclamation. Here begins the second, or he almighty nigger edition of the democratic party. Not content with the plain and simple of duty marked out by the people for his administration, but preferring to cut his cards so as to turn up Jack in the Cincinnati Democratic Convention, poor Pierce took up the almighty nigger in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; and in this both Pierce and Douglas were humbugged to their bearts' content by Jefferson Davis, Senators Mason, Atchison, and other Southern fire-eaters But it is enough that that act was the death blow to this nigger agitating edition of the democratic party. Staggering under this fatal blow through the campaign of 1856 successfully, the life of the party seems only to have been thus prolonged for the most ignominious dissolution. Torn to pieces by its internal dis-sensions, it has been displaced; and its bloodsuckers, before retiring, are simply appropriating all the public funds they can lay their hands upon in providing for the future.

This is the universal law in all revolutionary hanges of governments. The party abdicating take all they can lay their hands upon and carry it off, leaving to the party supplanting them the settlement of their little bills. The republican party will thus come into power with a mountain load of debts, deficiencies and drawbacks upon their shoulders. Under the most encouraging auspices it would be as much as they could do to straighten up the Treasury in four years. But from the antecedents of this party in their management of State affairs in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Wisconsin and elsewhere, we have little to hope from them in the way of retrenchment and reform They take to the lobby and lobby jobs of all orts as naturally as ducks and geese take to he water; and in displacing the demoralized democracy to make room for the republicans we may perhaps realize the fear of the fox in the fable, that to drive away the flies that were gorged with his blood would only be to make oom for a new and bungry swarm, that would soon suck out every remaining drop in his

The malignant persecutors of Mr. Buchana: sy that he now spends his time between prayng and weeping, night and day, over the abounding evils of these gloomy times. But even if this be true, is it to be wondered at, when traitors, robbers and fanatics rule the

The Speaker of the Next State Assembly. The Legislature of the State of New York will assemble at Albany on next Tuesday, the 1st day of January, 1861, under circumstances that demand from the members composing that body a careful and well considered action in regard to the organization of the lower branch of the legislative body. The developments of corruption and gross frauds in high places during the past year, culminating in the theft and robbery in the departments at Washington-which, from present indication, will involve the head of almost every bureau at our national capital-have aroused a feeling in the public mind that completely overrides the seession excitement and all other questions that have of late stirred the national heart, and awakened all lovers of the Union and the constitution to the dangers of the hour. The declaration of the secessionists, the attitude of South Carolina, or the cotton States, is second in the public mind to the astounding news from Washington of the official recklessness and frauds of those who are in positions of public trust. Those men who have been counselling together to preserve Union of the States, and maintain violate the family which has so prospered whilst recognizing the same head, and with like aspirations controlling their actions, now stand appalled before the defalcation in the Interior and Treasury departments of our national government. It would seem as if a black cloud had suddenly appeared on a clear sky, the proportions of which had caused all to tremble before its threatening presence. The indications are that this contagion for plunder is likely to extend to almost every department at Washington, and the only course left for the President to pursue is to dismiss his entire Cabinet, appoint new men in their places, and instigate a rigid and thorough investigation. There is no other alternative for our Chief Executive but a prompt and decisive action in this respect, to defend his own character and remove suspicion of complicity on his

With these startling facts fresh before the public, the course of all the Legislatures in those States where the party that has come out successful in the recent election have controlmore especially that of the State of New Yorkwill be watched with more than usual anxiety by the public, to see if there are any symptoms of reform in our rulers. The orga tion of the popular branch of the Legislature in this State is of the greatest importance at this hour of secession and robbery. We see by the several party journals in the State that the Speaker of the last State Assembly is again a candidate for that position. Can it be possible that, in view of the barefaced rascality of the last Legislature in regard to the legislation for this city-a legislative body that has been styled the most venal that ever assembled at the State capitol-in conne with the startling disclosures from Washington, Mr. Littlejohn has the least show for an election to that post of honor?

If the republican party wish to convince the public of the honesty of their pretensions, and the fulfilment of their promises to bring the administration of the affairs of the nation back to its original honesty and justice, they must throw overboard all who have been mixed up with the peculations at Albany. No person engaged in the crusade of the lobby in the emes last winter can be again placed in power by them without the republican party receiving the just indignation of a virtuous public, not only in our State and nation, but throughout the civilized world. No other party ever had so great a duty before them as has the dominant party of this State at the present time. The question of the selection of officers of the next State Assembly, in view of the present complicated state of affairs, is one that s above all party lines, and should be looked at free from party prejudices by all who have been chosen by the people as legis-lators. Should Mr. Littlejohn, let him be ever so innocent, be again elected to the post of Speaker, it will be taken as a declaration that the rascality of last winter is endorsed by the party; that the same reckless policy is to be continued, and will drive from the public mind all hope that a more wholesome and healthy administration will follow Lincoln's official oath.

It is not necessary at this time to refer to the course of Mr. Littlejohn in the last Legislature to prove this assertion, or show that his election to preside over the popular branch of the Legislature of the State of New York will be particularly injurious in the present condition of the public mind, not only to the party which elevates him, but to the country at arge. It is sufficient to know that the last Legislature left an odium behind it such as was never before known by any legislative body in the State, and that he was one of the leading men in that body, taking an active part in favor of those measures commonly denominated corrupt. Even admitting that his motives were pure and beyond suspicion, the fact of his being conspicuous in favor of those projects alone should prevent his aspiring to that post of honor at this critical time, much more his election by a party that has just been successful in a national contest.

We are now at a turning point in our career as a nation; the ship of State that carries the hopes and happiness of thirty million souls, forming the most free and proserous nation on the face of the globe, has, during a dangerous storm, entered perilous waters, with rocks and breakers on all sides; the republican party have been called to the helm, and upon them devolves the duty of safely guiding it through the dangers that beset it. The first public act of the party from which we can judge of the probable fate of that noble ship, with its precious cargo, is that of the organization of the next State Assembly in the Empire State. Should the places of trust oscupied by those who were actively engaged in favor of the piratical schemes of winter be filled by another set of men, we shall have reason to hope that there is yet a bright future before us. On the contrary, if the same officers are re-elected, it will be taken as an nce that the confidence of the public has been betrayed. We trust, therefore, in view of the importance of the question, that every mem-ber of the House of Assembly, whether he be a republican or democrat, will cast his vote for officers of that body, from the highest to the lowest, in the way that the result will furnish us some hope that we shall safely pass through the present perilous times. The republican party owe their success in a great measure to the desire in the public mind to get rid of the corrupt democratic party. Let their action in his own pecuniary affairs without getting them Albany on Tuesday next be such as to insure into a mess, and even with the aid of

us that they have not been appealed to in vain. Republicans of the House of Assembly, the eyes and hopes of a free people are upon you. What answer have you to give them?

THE OPERA IN NEW YORK-POSITION OF THE STOCKHOLDERS.—We perceive that several of the city journals have taken up the question as to how far the public is affected by action of the stockholders of the Academy of Music in their dealings with the managers and artists. One of the stockholders, feeling aggrieved by the statements of a cotemporary, has put forth a reply, from which it appears that the rent received from the Opera has barely sufficed to pay the taxes on the building; that the stockholders have never received a cent of dividend, and that their music has cost them (in interest) nearly one hundred dollars a year. The stockholder overlooks the real difficulty in the matter—the fact that, the house having cost a great deal more money than was expected, a heavy debt was created. Then the theatre was made very unpopular by the secured seat privilege, which managers of lectures, concerts, &c... refused to recognise, and which has since been virtually waived for everything except the Opera. The Philharmonic Society resolutely kept out of the Academy until the stockholders gave up their places, which was not done until they had lost several thousand dollars of rent. Now, if the theatre had cost only two hundred thousand dollars, as was intended, it would have earned as much as it does now-say twenty thousand dollars a year-and paid to the stockholders a money dividend of six per cent. So it is not the fault of the artists or the

public if the Academy does not pay. The tockholders, it is understood, have cancelled Ullman's lease, and have resolved not to let the building for a year or a lengthened period to any person. They will lease for an Opera season by the night, at the rate of two hundred dollars for each performance, they paying about one hundred for lights, fire, attendance, &c. Whether or not the associated Italian artists will undertake the management upon these terms remains to be seen. In Philadelphia the journals call loudly upon the public to support the Opera. It seems that the associated artists gave a three weeks' season at the Philadelphia Academy, and that the gross receipts of the twelve performances amounted to \$8,222 50; the expenses amounted to \$8,185leaving \$37 50 to be divided between a prima donna, whose figure is \$2,000 per month; a enor, who rates himself at \$1,500; a prime basso and baritone, at \$800 each, and a conductor at \$400. Seven dellars and a half spiece for Colson, Brignoli, Susini, Ferri and Muzio-two dollars and a half per week! Not enough to pay for their gloves. The company spent in Philadelphia \$8,581-that is, they left in Philadelphia \$358 more than they received there. Had the artists received their usual salaries, the manager would have lost over \$4,000 by this successful Philadelphia

It is urged that as the Opera assists certain branches of trade materially, the persons so benefitted should subscribe for season tickets, thus giving the artists a permanent basis. It is quite as true of New York as of Philadelphia that the real cause of the failure of operatic enterprises is the apathy of the general public. When the Germans tried the Opera the first time at the Academy they made it pay handsomely. The last time the public deserted them altogether, and the receipts were not sufficient to pay the rent, orchestra and chorus. It is said now that whatever the stockholders might do, the public would still hold back, and that between the political troubles and the festivities incidental to the season, people have as much as they can attend to without going to the Opera. Still the experiment of a subscription, emanating from holders, might be tried. It would certainly do no harm. With a low rent, no exorbitant salaries, and a moderate subscription, a short season might be made to pay. If half the people who express a wish to hear the Opera would pay for their tickets, there would be no difficulty about the matter. But the Academy being the only theatre where it is considered fashionable to be a member of the Dead Head brigade, everybody wishes to go

As for the stockholders, they are not to blame for adhering to their privilege; the mistake was made in the first place by giving it to them. If they had foreseen all the difficulty that it has caused they would undoubtedly have taken the course adopted by the Brooklyn directors, who have bought wisdom at our expense. The question, then, as to whether we shall have opera or not, is one to be decided by the public. New Orleans and San Francisco support French and English Opera handsomely, while in the great metropolis the artists might starve for all that the public would do to prevent it. Have we really no taste for any higher developement of the divine art than negro minstrelsy or the slang of the concert halls?

THURLOW WHED'S FEDERAL SLATE.-It is stated, upon what appears to be reliable authority, that Thurlow Weed's late visit to Springs field was made with a view of ruling the Tri bene clique entirely out of the field, so far as the distribution of the federal spoils is concerned. Weed took his slate with him, and Lincoln pondered over the names suggested for the New York offices. First and forem Moses H. Grinnell was marked down as Secretary of the Treasury. This would be a good appointment. Mr. Grinnell would certainly administer the affairs of that department much better than the late incumbent, who, having first disturbed and then paralyzed the of the government, deserted his post and went home to Georgia to do his best towards breaking up the Union which he swore to defend. Next on Weed's slate Old Abe found the name of W. H. Seward as Minister to England, and W. M. Evarts to succeed Seward in the Senate, Wood fixing things for Evarts in the next Legislature. And finally, the Chevalier Webb loomed up as a candidate for the New York Post Office. Now we have a word or two to say about this last proposition. Webb, being warrior by trade and a diplomat by inclination, should either have a military post or should go abroad. He has his court clothes all laid away in lavender now. But the New York Postmaster is a financial officer; large amounts of money pass throng his hands, and it is absolutely requisite that he should be a careful, prudent business man. Now Webb has never been able to manage